

FLINTSHIRE U3A SCIENCE GROUP



Portrait from early 1500s (@Telegraph)



Facial reconstruction 2015 (@Culture 24)

On 13 March, the Science Group hosted a talk by Dr. Rhian Morgan from the Wales Gene Park in Cardiff on the "King's DNA - Richard III from car park to cathedral".

Members enjoyed a thoroughly informative talk, delivered in a very professional manner, which left everyone wanting more.

Rhian commenced with Richard's early history, his coronation as King on 6 July 1483, and his possible involvement with the Princes in the Tower.

On 22 August 1485, at the Battle of Bosworth, having reached within a sword's length of Henry Tudor, Richard's horse became stuck in marshy ground, and he was killed with a blow to the head. Analysis suggested it could have been a weapon such as a halberd..

His body was taken to Leicester and buried in Greyfriars Church. The exact location became lost over five centuries of developments.

In August 2012, an initiative between several organisations including Leicester University, Leicester County Council and the Richard III Society was mounted to search for the remains of King Richard.

On 7 December, beneath a city centre car park, a human skeleton was found in the remains of the Choir in Greyfriars Church.

The skeleton had a severe curvature of the spine, and the skull had a series of injuries, one being a gaping hole consistent with a halberd blow.

Radiocarbon dating of the skeleton gave a result within the correct timeframe, but didn't pinpoint the exact date.

Richard's maternal line - or mitochondrial - DNA matched two living relatives of his eldest sister, Ann of York, with a 99.999% probability the body was that of the Plantagenet King.

His remains were reinterred in Leicester Cathedral on 26 March 2015.



The car park



The skeleton in situ (@Leicester Uni.)



Richard's tomb

